

Walking and Bicycling Audit

Safe Routes to School volunteers should look for:

Sidewalks

- » Are sidewalks continuous?
Are there gaps in the sidewalk network? Are there no sidewalks at all in some locations?
- » Are the sidewalks maintained (broken, cracked, snow covered, standing water)?
- » Are sidewalks obstructed (poles, signs, shrubs, dumpsters)?
- » Are the sidewalks well lit?
- » Are there accessible ramps for wheelchairs?

Street Crossing

- » What is the width of the roads near the school?
- » Are there crosswalks?
- » What is the volume of traffic on the adjacent roads?
- » Are there any traffic signals?
- » Do traffic signals allow enough time for children to cross?
- » Is there a pedestrian signal or warning?
- » Do parked cars block the view of oncoming traffic?
- » Are there accessible ramps for wheelchairs?

School Zone

- » Are there advance signs indicating drivers are approaching a school zone?
- » Are there signs specifying a school zone speed limit? If so, what is the speed limit?
- » Are there any speed bumps, speed tables, traffic circles or other traffic-calming infrastructure in the area of the school?
- » Is the existing signage faded, damaged or outdated?

Driver Behavior

- » Do drivers yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk?
- » What are the posted speed limits? Do drivers follow those speed limits?
- » Are drivers speeding up to make it through traffic lights or driving through traffic lights?

Bicycle Specific

- » Are bicycle route signs showing the recommended routes present?
- » Are marked bike lanes or wide curb lanes available to accommodate bicyclists?
- » Are separate bicycle paths available?
- » Are the road or paths for bicyclists well maintained?
- » Are bicyclists able to activate any traffic signals along the route?
- » Do drivers give bicyclists space on the road?
- » Are bicyclists following the rules of the road?

Other

- » Are there abandoned buildings or cars along the routes to the school?
- » Is loitering a problem?
- » Do (actual or suspected) drug activity or other crimes take place in the area?
- » Do any homes have scary dogs or loose dogs?
- » Are there areas isolated from commercial or residential zones?
- » Is there litter or trash?
- » What is the air quality like?
- » Are there railroad crossings?
- » What is the landscaping like? Is it conducive to promoting walking and biking?

Note the positive

- » Note items that worked particularly well when walking or bicycling the routes to discover the items that work well in your community.
- » Noticing these items can help the group when it comes time to make recommendations.

Walking and bicycling route audit materials

- » Instruction sheet describing project and list of questions showing what volunteers should look for on route.
- » Maps: smaller for doing audits and larger for compiling audits.
- » Clipboards and writing utensils.
- » Letter home to parents asking for volunteers.
- » Letter to community and school officials letting them know of audits.
- » Sample press release announcing audit.